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Association of American Railway Accounting Officers

Eugene Robert Woodson

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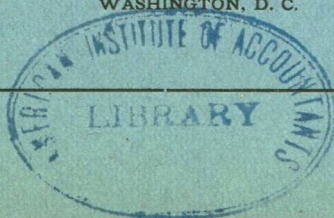
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THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILWAY ACCOUNTING OFFICERS



COMPILED BY THE SECRETARY

PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED BY
DIRECTION OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILWAY
ACCOUNTING OFFICERS
1116 AND 1118 WOODWARD BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.



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"We hope to make this Association comprise ultimately every accounting officer in the United States. I think that it should number two thousand members. Bring in all the young men—the auditors of departments, the assistant auditors. They are the men that will derive, probably, the most benefit from the Association. * * * The men who will take our places we hope to see a good deal better—more representative than we are, more nearly in accord with the spirit of the age, having better general knowledge, better ideas in detail, more specific information and greater disposition to adapt themselves to that which is best. Therefore, every one of us should make especial effort to bring into the Association the junior officers and promising young men in our departments. We cannot overestimate the enormous importance to railroads that their accounts should be thorough, should be such as will best enlighten managers and owners quickly and at the minimum cost. To do this we must educate those who handle the accounts."—From an address delivered January, 1889, before the Association of American Railway Accounting Officers, by its first President, Mr. Marshall M. Kirkman (then Comptroller, Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company).

"One of our members has urged upon the Executive Committee a missionary effort to gather within the fold of the Association a large number of those who, while possessing membership qualifications, are still outside in the wilderness. Such an effort is surely desirable, provided the new members come in the right spirit, willing to impart knowledge, yet anxious to learn. Their advent in large numbers would doubtless add to the responsibilities of the older members. In conclusion, I would remark that the recognition of the proper place of the accounting department in the organization of railroads can only be secured by educating and fitting the officers of the department to fill that place, and I know of no better means to that end than the Association of American Railway Accounting Officers."—From an address delivered April, 1907, before the Association of American Railway Accounting Officers, by Mr. H. A. Gray, Comptroller, Northern Pacific Railway Company.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILWAY ACCOUNTING OFFICERS

WHAT IT IS.

The Association of American Railway Accounting Officers has six hundred individual members, representing over 276,000 miles of railroad; also certain express companies and some water carriers, and comprising a geographical territory of United States, Canada, Mexico, South America, Cuba, Porto Rico, Philippine Islands, and South Africa.

The Association was organized in 1888 and has, therefore, been in continuous existence for more than a quarter of a century.

ITS OBJECTS.

The Association is exclusively a business organization, maintained and conducted entirely for the common good and advancement of railway accounting.

The Constitution provides that:

"The object of the Association shall be the better organization and conduct of the accounts of carriers and the securing to them of the advantages that should follow the interchange of ideas and experiences among its members; to aid in securing more perfect means of determining balances between carriers and greater definiteness and promptness in paying the same; greater uniformity in method of adjusting joint accounts; more equitable plans for settling claims between carriers; greater certainty and promptness in collecting freight charges at competing points; better means of adjusting balances at junctions where freight is rebilled; the obtaining of greater uniformity, wherever practicable, in the governmental returns required of railroads; the more general systematization of railway accounts, and, finally, the

benefiting of railways in every proper way that comes within the scope of such an Association."

WHAT IT ACCOMPLISHES.

The revised classifications of accounts prescribed by the Interstate Commerce Commission for steam roads, effective on July 1, 1914, carry the following statement:

"In the preparation of the revision of the accounting rules contained in this and other classifications for steam roads, which are concurrently issued, the Commission has had the cooperation of the Association of American Railway Accounting Officers, and of its Standing Committee on Corporate, Fiscal and General Accounts."

May 27, 1914, the Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission wrote the President of the Association of American Railway Accounting Officers as follows:

"The Commission at a recent conference considered and approved under its order the revised classification of Road and Equipment, Operating Revenues and Expenses, Income, Profit and Loss, and Balance Sheet Accounts for Steam Roads, which are to become effective on July 1, 1914.

"I am requested by the Commission to express to you, and through you to the Association, the Commission's appreciation of the cordial spirit with which the Association has cooperated with the representatives of the Commission in the preparation of the revision of these classifications. The advice of its Standing Committee on Corporate, Fiscal and General Accounts, during the progress of the work, has been particularly helpful."

In addition to its cooperative work with the governmental and regulating bodies, the Association devotes much consideration to the promotion of uniform and improved methods and practices in all features of the common carrier accounting service. Members of the Association at all times may submit, for consideration and recommendation by the Association, any and all problems coming within the scope of the organization.

As a means of systematically conducting its affairs,

the Association usually has its problems considered by committees composed of experienced railroad accounting officers in the field to be covered. Through rotation in office, practically two-thirds of the members of the committees hold over each year, so that the new members of committees get the views of the older ones. The work of the committees is placed before the Association for review. It maintains the following Standing Committees:

Corporate, Fiscal, and General Accounts, composed of twenty-five chief accounting officers, who consider and report upon matters incident to general railway accounting, including accounts and returns required by governmental authorities.

Freight Accounts, twenty-one members; Passenger Accounts, twenty-one members; Disbursement Accounts, twenty-one members; Terminal Companies' Accounts, nine members; Accounts with Governments, nine members. These committees consider and report upon problems and matters referred to them by the Association.

The Association of American Railway Accounting Officers maintains three Standing Committees for conference with other railway organizations on questions of mutual interest; that is to say, a committee to confer with the American Railway Association, with the American Association of Passenger Traffic Officers, and with the Freight Claim Association.

VOTING.

The Constitution makes the following provision:

"Every member of this Association shall be entitled to a voice and vote in its proceedings relative to the conduct of its affairs; but on all questions relative to Corporate, Fiscal and General Accounts and questions of settlements between carriers which involve the indorsement of the interests represented, the vote shall be taken as follows, viz.: A Railroad Company or two or more Railroad Companies associated in interest and under one

general accounting official, is eligible to one vote only; except, however, if the aggregate mileage of such company or companies exceeds one thousand miles, then such company or companies is eligible to one additional vote for each additional one thousand miles, or fractional part thereof, so operated; the Secretary shall prepare a voting list prior to each meeting, based upon the mileage of each company or companies as given in the last current issue of the Travelers' Official Railway Guide; the vote shall be cast by the ranking accounting official in attendance at the meeting, or some other person duly accredited from the same system. Companies or organizations, other than Railroad Companies, members of this Association, shall each be eligible to one vote, irrespective of mileage, upon all questions in regard to accounts or settlements directly affecting their interests."

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

The Constitution provides :

"Accounting officers, and the chiefs of all, or any, of the various departments of accounts, of all bona fide common carriers, who devote substantially all their time to this service, shall be eligible to active membership in this Association. They shall remain active members only so long as their qualifications for membership as herein defined exist.

"The Executive Committee shall determine the eligibility of all applicants for membership and certify the same to the Secretary."

The annual dues are \$7.00, payable in advance, for each representative of a common carrier.

Those desiring to apply for membership should communicate with the Secretary, Mr. E. R. Woodson, 1116 and 1118 Woodward Building, Washington, D. C.

THE ASSOCIATION'S HEADQUARTERS.

The offices and headquarters of the Association are located in Rooms 1116 and 1118 of the Woodward Building, 15th and H Streets, Northwest, Washington, D. C. A cordial invitation to visit its offices and to make use of its facilities is extended to members and others interested or concerned in the affairs of the Association.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILWAY ACCOUNTING OFFICERS

Officers and Executive Committee
1915-1916

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FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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Comptroller, Chicago & North-Western Railway Co.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

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E. R. WOODSON

1116 and 1118 Woodward Building, Washington, D. C.

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Auditor, Atlanta & West Point Railroad Co.

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Comptroller, Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Co.

J. W. ORR

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